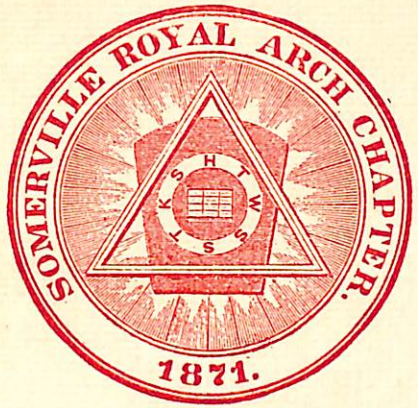
SOMERVILLE R. A. CHAPTER

BY-LAWS

BY-LAWS

OF

Somerville Royal Arch Chapter



Adopted July 11, 1871

Revised to July 1, 1916

[COPY OF CHARTER.]

To all the Exalted and Enlightened

UNDER THE CANOPY OF HEAVEN,

WHERESOEVER ASSEMBLED OR DISPERSED,

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Sendeth Greeting:

SEAL

HENRY CHICKERING, GRAND HIGH PRIEST

Be it known, That in pursuance of the powers vested in us by the Constitution of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for sundry good and sufficient reasons and causes us thereunto moving, and reposing special trust and confidence in the Masonic abilities of the following Companions of this Degree, all resident in or near the Town of Somerville, in the County of Middlesex, and Commonwealth aforesaid, have constituted, and by these presents do constitute, THOMAS HENRY LORD, CHARLES SPRAGUE LINCOLN, CHARLES FREDERIC KING, HORACE HASKINS, AARON SARGENT, AUSTIN BELKNAP, CYRUS FARMER CROSBY, SAMUEL AUGUSTUS CARLTON, GEORGE OLIVER BRASTOW, HENRY FROST SPENCER, CHRISTOPHER EDWIN RYMES, HENRY FRANK WOODS, ENOCH ROBINSON MORSE, GEORGE ADDISON PRATT, THOMAS CUNNINGHAM, GEORGE WELLS DURELL, HORACE PIERCE HEMENWAY, GEORGE HENRY DICKERMAN, SAMUEL THOMAS LITTLEFIELD, ISAAC BROOKS KENDALL, WILLIAM WELLMAN DOW, JOHN FRANCIS CONANT, CHARLES HENRY DELANO, ALBRO ROBINSON JENNESS, JOHN WARREN VINAL, JOHN THOMAS BOLTON, GEORGE HENRY MEADER, EBENEZER CORY MANN. Jr., JOHN CHAMPNEY PARK, SAMUEL MACMASTER PENNOCK, AARON ROSWELL COOLIDGE, CHARLES BALDWIN HOLLANDER, JOSEPH WARREN ALLEN, CHARLES PIERCE, together with all their regular Associates, Companions, and Successors, into a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, by the name and style of **SOMERVILLE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER**, to take rank, date, and precedence from the Thirteenth day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy. And we do hereby authorize and empower them, the said Companions, or any nine of them, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to open and hold a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the town aforesaid, and to exalt at their discretion any Master Mason to the degree of Royal Arch Mason: and for that purpose, to open, and hold Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, agreeably to the ancient Usages and Customs of Royal Arch Masons; also to make and establish By-Laws and Regulations for the government of said Chapter and Lodges, provided such By-Laws and Regulations are not contrary to the Constitution of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and at the same at pleasure to alter or repeal; and further to order and establish such Dues and Fees for the admission of Candidates and Members as to them, or a major part of them, and their Associates shall seem proper, and as are required by this Grand Chapter.

And we do hereby appoint our Excellent Companion, THOMAS HENRY LORD, first High Priest; Excellent Companion CHARLES SPRAGUE LINCOLN, first King; and Excellent Companion, CHARLES FREDERIC KING, first Scribe, of said Chapter.

And we do hereby enjoin upon the Companions of the said Chapter, that they, or any number of them, do not at any time, hold any private meetings or assemblies for Masonic purposes, except in the presence of a Companion appointed by the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, or Grand Scribe, or in the presence of either the High Priest, King, or Scribe of the said Chapter for the time being. And further that they regularly pay or cause to be paid, annually, to this Grand Chapter, all their lawful dues.

And it is hereby absolutely required of the said High Priest, King, and Scribe for the time being, that they attend regularly, either in person or by their Proxies, at all regular Communications of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

In Witness Whereof, we, the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, and Grand Scribe, have hereunto subscribed our names, and caused the Seal of the said Grand Chapter to be affixed, and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary this Tenth day of October, Anno Lucis, Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-One.

Z. H. THOMAS. JR., *Deputy Grand High Priest.*
THOS. WATERMAN, *Grand King.*
F. G. WALBRIDGE, *Grand Scribe.*

Attest:
ALFRED F. CHAPMAN,
Grand Secretary.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

CONSTITUTION AND ORGANIZATION

MEMBERS

SECTION 1. The SOMERVILLE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER shall consist of a High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, three Masters of the Veils, Chaplain, two Stewards, Sentinel, Tyler, and as many Companions as the Chapter may from time to time determine.

CONVOCATIONS

SECT. 2. The regular convocations shall be held on the third Thursday of each month, and special convocations may be called by the High Priest whenever he shall deem it expedient; *provided, however,* that in the months of July and August the regular convocations may be omitted by vote of the Chapter.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECT. 3. The first seven officers shall be elected at the regular convocation in September, by written or printed ballot; the others shall be appointed by the High Priest immediately after his installation.

The officers shall be installed as soon as may be convenient, and shall hold their offices until their successors are installed.

At this convocation there shall also be elected a Trustee of the Masonic Apartments, who shall serve for the term of two years.

Should any office become vacant, such vacancy may be filled at the first regular convocation thereafter.

ARTICLE II

DUTIES

HIGH PRIEST

SECTION 1. The High Priest shall convene regular and special convocations, and preside over the Chapter.

KING

SECT. 2. The King shall perform such duties as appertain to his office, and in the absence of the High Priest preside over the Chapter.

SCRIBE

SECT. 3. The Scribe shall perform such duties as appertain to his office, and in the absence of the High Priest and King preside over the Chapter.

TREASURER

SECT. 4. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys from the hands of the Secretary, pay all bills when duly approved by the Standing Committee, and perform such other duties as the Chapter may from time to time prescribe; and deliver to his successor in office all the property remaining in his possession.

SECRETARY

SECT. 5. The Secretary shall issue notifications to the Companions of all convocations of the Chapter; observe with attention the proceedings of the Chapter; keep a fair and impartial record of the same; collect all moneys due the Chapter and pay them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

SECT. 6. The other officers shall perform such duties as appertain to their respective offices.

STANDING COMMITTEE

SECT. 7. The High Priest, King, and Scribe shall be a Standing Committee, who shall examine all bills against the Chapter (two at least of the committee approving the same before they shall be paid by the Treasurer); audit the accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary, and report thereon at the regular convocation in September.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

SECT. 8. All committees, except the Standing Committee, shall report at the next convocation after their appointment, unless otherwise directed.

ARTICLE III

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES

APPLICATION

SECTION 1. Every candidate for the degrees shall make application for the degrees in the form prescribed by Articles 12 and 13 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter.

SECT. 2. Candidates thus proposed may be admitted to receive the degrees by a unanimous ballot of the Companions present. In case the ballot is not clear, the High Priest may order not more than two additional ballots at his discretion. When a candidate has been rejected no Companion shall question another as to his vote, declare his own or complain of the result.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Any Companion who has received the Degrees in this Chapter may become a member by signing the By-Laws, providing he does so within six months after exaltation.

SECT. 2. Any Companion who has received the Degrees in any other Chapter may be admitted to membership at any regular convocation, upon the same conditions as an applicant for the Degrees; but any Companion thus admitted who neglects to sign the By-Laws for six months after his election, shall be deemed to have forfeited his claim to membership.

HONORARY

SECT. 3. Companions who have served this Chapter as High Priest for the term of one year shall become Honorary Members.

Companions who have been eminently useful as Chapter Masons may be admitted to Honorary Membership, by the unanimous ballot of the Companions present, their names having been inserted in the notification for the convocation.

Honorary Members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of members,—except that the right to vote shall

not pertain to those who were not previously members of the Chapter.

ARTICLE V

FEES

SECTION 1. Each candidate for the Degrees shall pay the sum of $35.00 and each candidate for membership, the sum of $5.00. The fee shall accompany the application and shall be returned forthwith in the event of rejection.

SECT. 2. The annual dues shall be $4.00 per annum payable in advance on or before each Annual Meeting. Honorary Members, Life Members, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary and Tyler shall be exempt from annual dues. Members six months in arrears of dues shall be sent a written notice and duplicate due bill. Members twelve months in arrears shall be sent a reference to this section of the By-Laws and a duplicate due bill. Members sixteen months in arrears without excuse satisfactory to the Council shall be sent notice by mail, postage prepaid, to their last known address as it appears on the books of the Secretary, that their names will be reported to the Chapter for action at the second regular convocation thereafter; and after such notification their names shall be reported to the Chapter for action and they may be suspended from membership. The Secretary shall issue the notices and make the reports prescribed in this By-Law.

The Council shall have the power to remit the dues of any worthy companion of this Chapter when in their opinion fraternal consideration renders such action appropriate.

SECT. 3. Any member of this Chapter shall become a Life Member upon the payment of $50.00 or after having paid his annual dues in this Chapter for twenty-five years.

SECT. 4. The compensation of the Secretary shall be such an amount as the Chapter may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE VI

PERMANENT FUNDS

SECTION 1. There shall be a permanent fund to be called the Permanent Fund of Somerville Royal Arch Chapter. This Fund shall consist of the Permanent Fund as now established, all moneys received for life membership, all unconditional donations and bequests to the Chapter, the income of the fund not otherwise appropriated, and such additions as may from time to time be made by vote of the Chapter.

SECT. 2. Neither the whole nor any part of the principal of this fund shall ever be expended except by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular convocation, notice of the proposed expenditure having been borne on the notice of the convocation at which action is to be taken. The income of this fund may be used for any Chapter purpose, and shall be paid over by the Trustees to the Treasurer upon request by the Council, but if not so paid over shall be added to the principal at the end of each Chapter year.

SECT. 3. There shall be a permanent fund to be called the Charity Fund of Somerville Royal Arch Chapter, and there shall be set aside for this fund the sum of $5.00 out of each fee received for the degrees in this Chapter.

This fund shall consist of moneys set aside as aforesaid, all specific donations and bequests to this fund or to the Chapter for charitable purposes, the income of the fund not otherwise appropriated and such additions as may from time to time be made by vote of the Chapter.

This fund is established for the benefit of members of Somerville Royal Arch Chapter and their families, and the principal shall never be used for any other purpose. The income may be used for any charitable purpose of the Chapter.

SECT. 4. Neither the whole or any part of the principal of this fund shall ever be expended except by a three-fourths vote of the members present at a regular convocation, notice of the proposed expenditure having been borne on the notice of the convocation at which action is to be taken.

The income of this fund may be used for charitable purposes only, shall be paid over by the Trustees to the Treasurer as often as annually, and shall when in the Treasurer's hands be subject to the control of the Council.

SECT. 5. The Permanent Fund and the Charity Fund shall be held in the name of Somerville Royal Arch Chapter, but shall be under the control of a Board of Trustees consisting of the High Priest and Treasurer for the time being and three members who hold no other office in the Chapter to be elected by ballot for terms of three years, one to be elected each year.

Trustees of the Permanent Fund of Somerville Royal Arch Chapter in office when this By-Law takes effect shall continue to hold office during the term of their election and shall without a new election be Trustees of "Permanent" and "Charity" funds.

A vacancy in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term by an election after due notification. The Trustees thus constituted shall be called the "Trustees of the Permanent Funds of Somerville Royal Arch Chapter, Somerville, Mass."

SECT. 6. The Trustees shall invest the funds under their control in such a way as in their judgment may be most safe and productive. They shall keep a full and

accurate account of the condition of the funds, report the same to the Chapter at each annual meeting and at other times if required.

ARTICLE VII

CURRENT FUNDS

SECTION 1. Before closing his books for the year, the Secretary shall pay over to the Treasurer all moneys, if any, in his hands, and before closing his books for the year, the Treasurer shall, unless otherwise directed by vote of the Chapter, pay over to the Trustees to be added to the principal of the Permanent Fund all moneys in his hands in excess of $1500, aside from the income of the Charity Fund, and he shall at the same time pay over to the Trustees to be added to the principal of the Charity Fund all Charity Fund income in his hands in excess of $200.

ARTICLE VIII

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. At the June convocation the High Priest shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of not less than five members of the Chapter, which committee shall recommend to the Chapter at the annual meeting, a list of elective officers for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION 1. These By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular convocation provided the proposed changes have been presented to the Chapter in writing at a previous convocation and are borne upon the notice of the convocation at which action is to be taken.

Somerville R. A. Chapter

Masonic Apartments

Gilman Square, Somerville, Mass.

Regular Convocation

Third Thursday of each Month

Annual Convocation---September

DISTRICT

Fifteenth Capitular District

ASSOCIATED CHAPTERS

St. John's	East Boston
Chapter of the Shekinah .	Chelsea
Cambridge	Cambridge
Chapter of the Signet .	Charlestown
Winthrop	Winthrop

PRESENT ORGANIZATION

Officers for the year 1915-16

FRANK E. PORTER
Excellent High Priest

WILLARD J. McLOUD
Companion King

ALFREDDA R. HERSAM
Companion Scribe

MIAH G. KENNY	*Treasurer*
GEORGE E. BAXTER	*Secretary*
Rev. WM. H. PETTUS	*Chaplain*
EDWARD J. FUDGE	*Captain of the Host*
PERCY A. BRIGHAM	*Principal Sojourner*
FRED C. EATON	*Royal Arch Captain*
JOSEPH O. KNOX	*Master of the Third Veil*
ARTHUR V. JONES	*Master of the Second Veil*
GEORGE M. DAVIS	*Master of the First Veil*
GEORGE I. LAWLEY	*Senior Steward*
JOHN S. SMITH, JR.	*Junior Steward*
J. HERBERT THOMPSON	*Organist*
ALBERTISS M. CATON	*Tyler*

TRUSTEES OF MASONIC APARTMENTS

Lease authorized September 13, 1887

First Trustees elected September 13, 1887

FRANK W. MEAD, 1 year
CHARLES H. CUSHMAN, 2 years

PRESENT TRUSTEES

Ex. Comp. FRANK W. MEAD	Term expires 1916
Ex. Comp. JOSEPH H. MURPHY	Term expires 1917

TRUSTEES OF FUNDS

Permanent Fund Created 1895

First Trustees elected September 17, 1896

ORRIN C. HUBBARD, 1 year
CLARENCE H. WILLEY, 2 years
CHARLES W. TARBELL, 3 years

PRESENT TRUSTEES

SAMUEL D. KELLEY, Term expires 1916
FRANK A. NEWELL, Term expires 1917
ALBERT A. SUTHERLAND, Term expires 1918

Charity Fund Created 1916

Same Trustees

PAST HIGH PRIESTS

Ex. Comp.	Daniel E. Chase	Under Dispensation
"	Thomas H. Lord	1871-1872
"	Charles F. King	1873-1874-1875
"	Rudolph Kramer	1876-1877
"	George H. Allen	1878-1879
"	Thomas H. Lord	1880
"	Samuel F. Holt	1881-1882
"	Quincy E. Dickerman	1883-1884
"	Frank W. Mead	1885-1886
Rt. Ex. Comp.	Albion H. Libby	1887-1888
Ex. Comp.	James Kelley	1889
"	Orrin C. Hubbard	1890-1891
"	Clarence H. Willey	1892-1893
"	Charles W. Tarbell	1894-1895
"	Samuel D. Kelley	1896-1897
"	William H. Cushman	1898-1899
"	George E. Baxter	1900-1901
"	Joseph H. Murphy	1902-1903
"	Charles I. Shepard	1904
"	Albert A. Sutherland	1905-1906
Rt. Ex. Comp.	David T. Montague	1907-1908
Ex. Comp.	R. Stanley Smith	1909-1910
"	Edwin H. Pearson	1911-1912
"	Arthur E. Keating	1913-1914

APPENDIX

FEES

Degrees	$35.00
Membership by Dimit	5.00
Life Membership	50.00

DUES

Annual (payable in advance) $4.00

MEMBERSHIP

Members July 1, 1916	621

INCLUDING

Honorary Members	15
Life Members	75